

IN THE CLAIMS

1-29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:

a piece of baggage having a top and a bottom;

a set of wheels rotationally mounted towards said bottom of said piece of baggage;

a receptacle providing an opening in said top of said piece of baggage;

an arm portion retractably engaged to said piece of baggage and having an adjustable axial length extending between opposite proximal and distal ends, said proximal end being operatively secured to said piece of baggage and said distal end positionable between an extended position and a retracted position through said receptacle, wherein in said retracted position said distal end is closer to said piece of baggage than in said extended position;

a connector fixedly mounted to said distal end; and

a towing handle having a hand grip, the towing handle being separately provided from the connector and engaged to the connector such that said hand grip can pivot relative to said connector about a pivot axis that intersects the hand grip when said arm portion is in said extended position, and such that said towing handle grip is retracted at least partially into said receptacle when said arm portion is in said retracted position.

31. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

said arm portion has a center axis along the axial length, the center axis defining an arcuate telescoping path for moving the distal end between the extended and retracted positions.

32. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

said arm portion has a non-circular cross-section perpendicular to the axial length.

33. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 32, wherein:

said arm portion is arcuate along the axial length.

34. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

said arm portion is a single-pole arm portion.

35. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 34, wherein:

said single-pole arm portion is arcuate between the proximal and distal ends along a center axis corresponding to said axial length.

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

the pivot axis bisects the hand grip of the towing handle.

39. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 38 wherein:

said towing handle further comprises a stem connected to said handgrip.

40. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 39, wherein:

said stem intersects said handgrip at a generally perpendicular relation.

41. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 39, wherein:

said stem extends from one end of said handgrip and curves to said distal end of said arm portion.

42. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 39, wherein:

said stem comprises a single stem.

43. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30 wherein:

said towing handle further comprises a stem connected to said handgrip.

44. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 43, wherein:

said stem intersects said handgrip at a generally perpendicular relation.

45. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 43, wherein:

said stem extends from one end of said handgrip and curves to said distal end of said arm portion.

46. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 43, wherein:

said stem comprises a single stem.

47. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

in said retracted position, said towing handle lies flush with said piece of baggage.

48. (previously presented) A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:

a piece of baggage;

a set of wheels rotationally mounted on the piece of baggage;

a retractable arm portion, the arm portion comprising a plurality of tubular sections that are telescopically engaged with each other and having an axial length extending between opposite proximal and distal ends, the proximal end being operatively secured to the piece of baggage and the distal end being selectively movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the proximal end via the tubular sections telescoping in a manner such that the distal end is closer to the piece of baggage when in the retracted position than when the distal end is in the extended position, the arm portion further having a non-circular cross section perpendicular to the axial length so that the tubular sections cannot slidably twist relative to each other when the distal end of the arm portion is in the extended position;

a connector mounted stationary to the distal end;

a towing handle having a hand grip, the towing handle being separately provided from the connector and abutting the connector in a manner such that the hand grip can pivot relative to the connector about a pivot axis that intersects the hand grip when the distal end of the arm portion is in the extended position;

wherein the towing handle is generally unobtrusive when in the retracted position.

49. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 48, wherein:
the tubular sections of the arm portion are arcuate along their axial lengths.

50. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 48, wherein:
the arm portion is a single-pole arm portion.

51. (cancelled)

52. (cancelled)

53. (previously presented) A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:
a piece of baggage;
a set of wheels rotationally mounted on the piece of baggage;

a retractable arm portion, the arm portion comprising a plurality of curved tubular sections that are telescopically engaged with each other and having an arched axial length extending between opposite proximal and distal ends, the proximal end being operatively secured to the piece of baggage and the distal end being selectively movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the proximal end via the tubular sections telescoping in a manner such that the distal end is closer to the piece of baggage when in the retracted position than when the distal end is in the extended position;

a connector mounted stationary to the distal end;

a towing handle having a hand grip, the towing handle being separately provided from the connector and abutting the connector in a manner such that the hand grip can pivot relative to the connector about a pivot axis that intersects the hand grip when the distal end of the arm portion is in the extended position.

54. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 53, wherein the arm portion further has a non-circular cross section perpendicular to the axial length so that the tubular sections cannot slidably twist relative to each other when the distal end of the arm portion is in the extended position.

55. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 53, the towing handle comprising a stem that is integrally formed with the handle grip, the stem defining a bearing surface for abutment with the connector.

56. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 53, wherein the telescoping of the tubular sections follows an arcuate path extending away from a center axis of the piece of baggage